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Hey ... Joe?

Melissa McCarthy impersonator Sean Spicer screws up PM's name
metroNEWS

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WELCOME TO THE NORTH IBAKA
metroSPORTS

Your essential daily news | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2017 | High 0°C/Low -7°C Snow showers

MORE WOMEN ON BOARDS

GO SPONSOR HER

A few months after Metro launched a series advocating more Toronto women in senior roles, this happened metroNEWS

Plus **If nothing else, Trump's presidency is inspiring women of all races to enter politics** metroWORLD

The high(er) cost of going the distance

TRANSIT

Metrolinx considers fare charges based on length of trip

How much should it cost to ride the TTC? According to a new policy under consideration by the province's regional transit agency, it should depend on how far you travel.

Metrolinx, the provincial organization that oversees transit for the GTHA, is considering a fare model for the area's transit operators that would see all passengers on buses, streetcars, subways, and GO Transit pay by distance. A report on the issue will be discussed at Friday's Metrolinx board meeting, as part of its ongoing fare integration project that aims to standardize the pricing policies of GO and the region's nine municipal transit agencies.

The fare-by-distance model was made public Tuesday, and joins three other proposals that were already under consideration.

"It would enable greater consistency in fares (across the region) and it would better reflect the cost of the length of the trip," said Leslie Woo, chief planning officer for Metrolinx,

The three original options are: a modified version of the status quo that would provide discounts for riders crossing between the TTC and GO; a zone-based system that would charge riders more for crossing defined boundaries; and a hybrid that would have a flat rate for local bus travel but charge by distance or zone for subways and regional rail.

While two of the previous options included some form of distance-based charge, the new proposal would charge all riders a per kilometre rate. Similar systems are used in places like Singapore and the Netherlands.

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news Lead plaintiff in '60s Scoop lawsuit, Marcia Brown Martel, says decision makes for a "better country." **Canada**

Historic building destroyed

YONGE AND ST. CLAIR

120 firefighters unable to save Badminton and Racquet Club

The historic Badminton and Racquet Club of Toronto went up in flames Tuesday morning, sparking what Toronto fire Chief Matthew Pegg called one of the biggest fire responses of his career.

More than 120 firefighters battled the massive blaze that swept through the storied sports club. At one point there were 12 different hoses pumping water onto the fire from five pumper trucks and vantage points on nearby rooftops and balconies.

Portions of Yonge Street and St. Clair Avenue were closed Tuesday as smoke billowed from the roof, parts of which collapsed, police said.

Streetcar service and the St. Clair subway station shut down as the surrounding neighbourhood filled with smoke.

Capt. David Eckerman of Toronto Fire Services said 40 trucks responded to the club just before 9:30 a.m. in what became a six-alarm fire.

According to Eckerman, all occupants of the building were accounted for.

Speaking to reporters at the scene Tuesday evening, Mayor John Tory thanked firefighters and others for "working as a team with a great deal of courage and determination to deal with a very difficult situation."

He said he was looking into finding displaced residents a place to stay for the night.

The building has combustible materials that contributed to the fire and the roof's collapse, Pegg said.

The oldest section of the historic building, which is nearest to Yonge St. and dates to the 1920s, was gutted.

Firefighters worked in shifts, spelling off their colleagues as they tired. "We have a lot of exhausted firefighters," Pegg told reporters.

Watching from a Country Style shop down the street, racquet club member Bruce Taylor said club management sent an email to members about the fire, saying it may have been caused by an electrical issue, but offered no other details.

One firefighter suffered a minor back injury during the fire and was taken to hospital said Toronto fire officials.

"This is a challenging situation but these are the situations Fire Services are trained and equipped to respond to," Pegg said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Firefighters took shifts throughout Tuesday trying to douse the blaze. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> **We have a lot of exhausted firefighters.**
> Fire Chief Matthew Pegg

The club has been a fixture in the area since 1924. TORSTAR

BELOVED 'B&R'

The Badminton & Racquet Club of Toronto (a.k.a. the 'B&R'), tucked behind commercial and residential buildings near St. Michael's cemetery, has been beloved by its members from 1924.

Joe Morissette, executive director for Badminton Canada, said its destruction by fire made Tuesday "a very sad day for our sport." Ward 22 councillor Josh Matlow, said the historical significance of the building "cannot be understated."

In recent years, the B&R repurposed itself as a racquets, fitness and social club. The club had just reopened in mid-2016 after a major renovation.

BRAMPTON

Rescuer sad he couldn't help more

A 19-year-old man, Sheldon Teague, who broke down a door to save a young girl in a Brampton house fire early Tuesday morning doesn't consider himself a hero and said he's "horrified" by the memory of the incident after three others died in the blaze.

The City of Brampton's fire chief said by the time firefighters arrived, Teague had already rescued the girl.

The girl remains in hospital in serious condition after the massive house fire on Madison Street near Dixie Road and Williams Parkway.

Sheldon Teague

Authorities have not released the identities of those who died, nor the cause of the fire.

Teague told reporters he was staying over in his friend's basement apartment. He was watching a movie on his laptop when he heard screaming at around 3:30 a.m. and smelled smoke. He ran upstairs where a family of four lived, and was able to rescue one girl, but could hear others screaming.

Fire trucks soon arrived at the scene and took over.

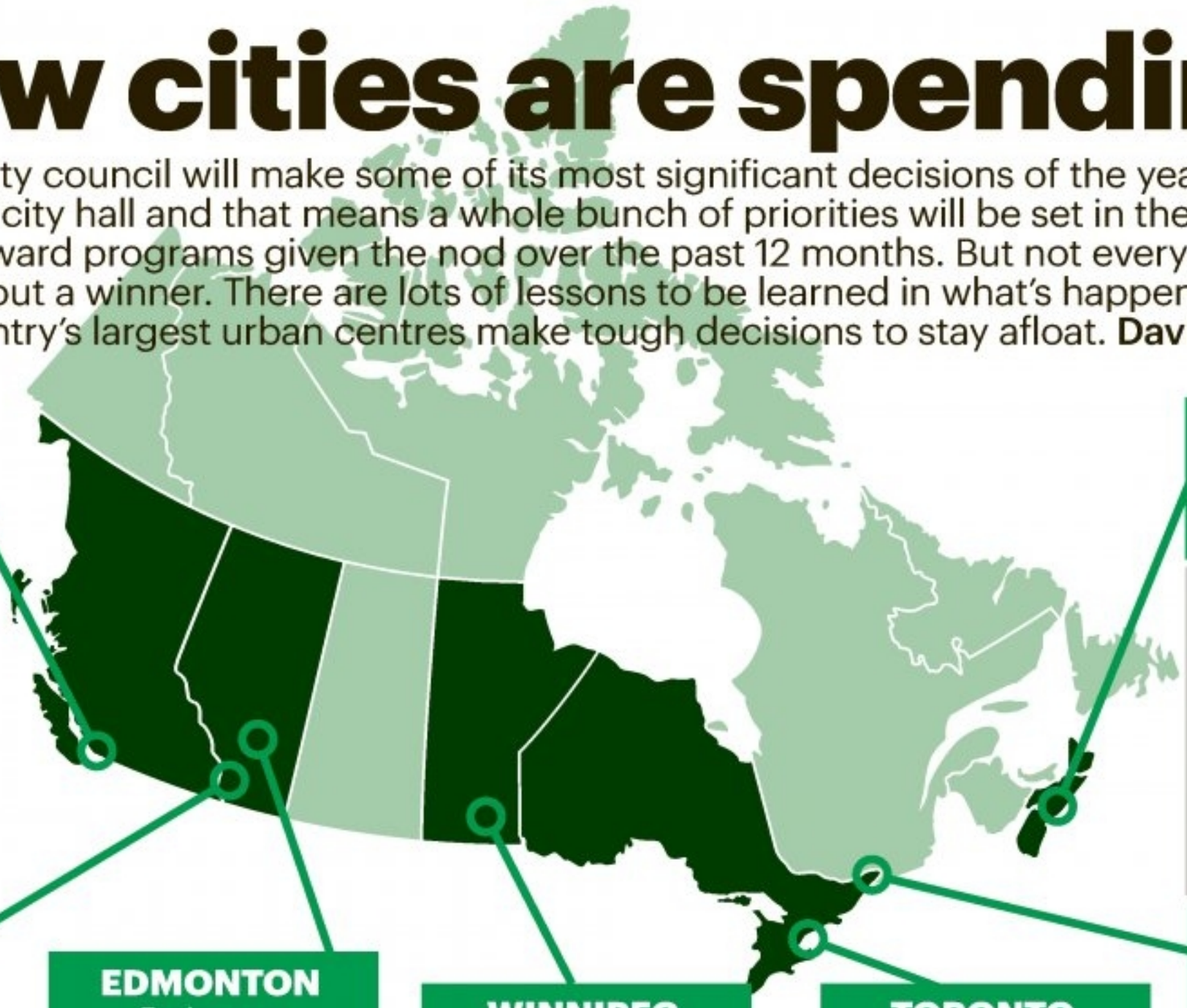
"I'm not a hero. I'm just a regular person who did what needed to be done in the moment," said Teague. "I kind of wish that I could have helped more people."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TORONTO'S 2017 BUDGET

How cities are spending

Toronto city council will make some of its most significant decisions of the year today. It's budget day at city hall and that means a whole bunch of priorities will be set in the form of money actually flowing toward programs given the nod over the past 12 months. But not everyone is, of course, expected to come out a winner. There are lots of lessons to be learned in what's happening from coast to coast as the country's largest urban centres make tough decisions to stay afloat. **David Hains/Metro**



VANCOUVER
Tax increase
3.9%

Budget highlight
Increased property taxes by 0.5 per cent to fund services for opioid crisis.
Lesson: When council recognizes a crisis — like opioids in Vancouver and other major cities — the way to show political courage is to fund evidence-based solutions.

CALGARY
Tax increase
None

Budget lowlight
The city's top civil servant warned that a dire economic downturn means big challenges for the 2018 and 2019 budgets.
Lesson: City budgets should be built to withstand economic turmoil. Failing to do so can mean cuts to city services when citizens most need them.

EDMONTON
Tax increase
2.85%

Budget lowlight
Chose not to fund Nuit Blanche or the city museum.
Lesson: You can achieve low property taxes, but it often comes at the expense of low-cost things that make the city feel special.

WINNIPEG
Tax increase
2.33%

Budget highlight
A 57-per-cent increase in funding for pedestrian and cycling projects.
Lesson: The most cost-effective way to alleviate congestion and decrease road repairs is encouraging people to use other modes of transport.

TORONTO
Proposed tax increase
2%

Budget lowlight
$33 billion worth of approved but unfunded capital projects. **Lesson:** You can keep trying to delay large and necessary city expenses, but eventually you have to pay for them.

HALIFAX
Proposed tax increase
1.8%

Budget lowlight
Halifax's CFO has warned councillors that the city's expenses are outpacing expected revenue.
Lesson: Things cost money. If you don't increase the main revenue source by the rate of inflation, then political battles turn into attempts to salvage minor but cherished parts of the budget.

OTTAWA
Tax increase
2%

Budget highlight
Council approved a low-income transit pass that's half the regular cost, a first for the city.
Lesson: You can still pass some good initiatives with inflation-level property tax increases.

Graphic: Andres Plana/Metro

Lessons from Toronto: low taxes have consequences

OPINION

Matt Elliott

Members of Mayor John Tory's executive committee were given a presentation last week from city finance staff featuring multiple charts all geared toward convincing politicians of one simple truth: Toronto's property taxes are very, very low.

There are seven charts in total. Even for me, a guy who loves charts, I've got to admit that's a lot of charts.

Each one exists to fend off criticism from skeptics who find it hard to accept Toronto's property tax burden is shockingly low. And so the charts run through the many ways our property taxes are way below average.

They're low in terms of rates, of course. Lowest in the GTA, according to full-year statistics for 2016.

But, hold on, you might think, rates are irrelevant — what does that mean in terms of actual dollars? There's a chart for that too, showing that the average Toronto tax bill was $3,077, again lowest in the GTA and just over $1,000 less than the GTA average.

Okay, but what about property taxes as a percentage of household income? Again, another chart, and Toronto does well — fourth lowest in the GTA, and below average.

Sure, but doesn't Toronto also have a unique land transfer tax and added costs related to garbage collection? We do, yes, but, oh, look, there's a chart factoring those in, and Toronto's total tax burden is still fourth lowest in the GTA.

In fact, the only way in which Toronto property taxes look expensive is when examining the tax bills paid by people who own large homes in the richest areas of the city.

I point all this out for one reason: it's important to understand that keeping Toronto a very low-tax city is a choice.

And choices have consequences.

The only way in which Toronto property taxes look expensive is when examining the tax bills in the richest areas of the city.

Budget consequences are inevitable when city departments feel like they need to wrangle every nickel of savings and offset foregone general tax revenue with user fees.

This year, the consequences include a broken promise to Olympian Penny Oleksiak, who asked Tory not to cut pool programming at S.H. Armstrong Community Centre. Despite the relatively low cost of programming and a waiting list for swim programs of about 60,000 people, Tory supports the cut.

They include a bunch of shifting proposals for city-subsidized affordable child care. A last-minute move by Tory averted a significant fee increase, but still leaves nearly 18,000 children on the waiting list.

And they include another TTC fare increase and the closure of Toronto Community Housing units due to chronic disrepair.

None of this happened by accident. When Tory and Toronto City Council meet to give final approval to their budget Wednesday, they should remember that these consequences are the inevitable result of prioritizing the city's very low taxes.

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Banksy art back in public

CULTURE

But not everyone is impressed with its spot

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

Banksy is back on the Harbourfront.

The anonymous British-based artist originally painted a police officer with a muzzled pink balloon dog on a limestone pillar at the former OPP headquarters on 90 Harbour Street in 2010.

Menkes Developments Ltd. knocked down the building a year later to make way for a mixed-used project, but the company has now revived the street art in the PATH that connects to the development.

"When we bought the building we owned the piece and it was natural to put it back into the public realm," said Jared Menkes, vice-president of the high-rise residential division of Menkes.

It's believed Banksy did the street art on a wall at 90 Harbour Street in 2010, when he visited Toronto around the time of the release of his film Exit Through the Gift Shop. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

> By taking it off the street it becomes a commodity that developers own, when it fact it's speaking back to development and gentrification and all of these things. Mark Campbell

Menkes added Banksy's work was appraised at over $1 million in 2013. It's been stored in a warehouse for years and the company paid about $2 million for the public art installation.

But not everyone agrees it's the best context for an artist known for his subversive, often anti-establishment street art.

Mark Campbell, senior research associate at Ryerson's Faculty of Communication and Design forum for cultural strategies, said he sees Banksy as "incorporated against his own will" into the redevelopment.

"Preserving Banksy's work without him involved really is like hijacking someone's Twitter handle," said the Ontario Arts Council board member.

Toronto-based designer Johnson Chou proposed the installation, which includes both the Banksy and a polished stainless steel "companion piece" called Speculum.

He sees it as an "ensemble" incorporating the Banksy as an "artifact" of the old building that can be viewed through the mirrored plane.

"We wanted people to reflect on the fact that it's graffiti art, it's meant to be ephemeral," he said. It's "virtually impossible" to engage the reclusive Banksy, he added.

"Any work of art that can that can evoke a visceral response, that can put a smile on my face every time I see it, is worth saving," he said.

ENGLAND

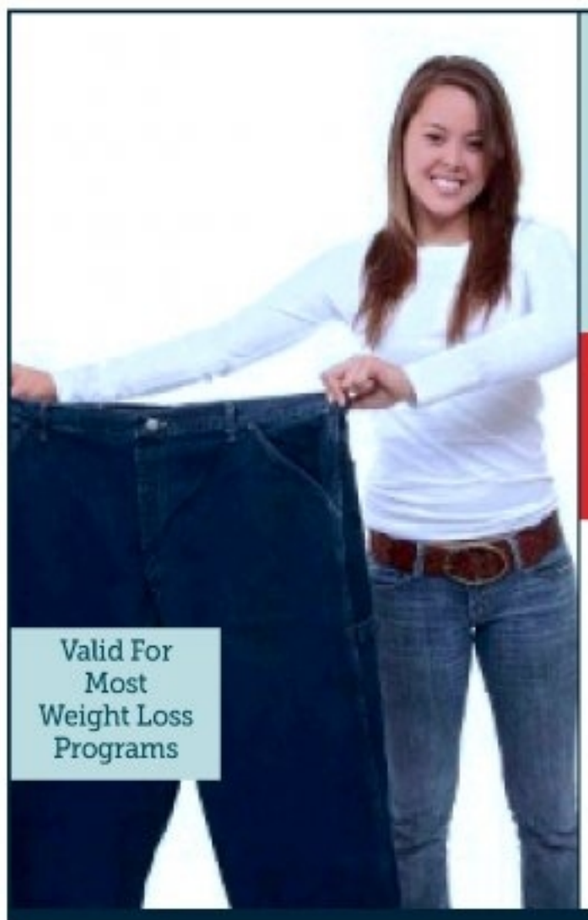
Drake's dramatic weekend

Drake had a typically busy weekend — he played two sold-out arena dates, won two Grammy Awards, and might have been caught up in a suicide bid.

A newspaper in England reports that Toronto's rap superstar offered to help talk down a man who was standing on a Manchester overpass early Saturday in what's been described as a suicide attempt.

Drake INVISION/AP FILE

The Manchester Evening News reported that Drake's tour bus was caught before 6 a.m. in a traffic jam caused by road closures as police tried to talk to the man on the Mancunian Way "on the wrong side of the barriers." The man's presence on the overpass was described by international media — picking up the Evening News' account — as a suicide attempt, though the Evening News did not characterize it, one way or another. The man was taken to hospital. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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Crystal Prystai, right, is being sponsored by **Marcia Smith,** senior vice-president of sustainability and external affairs at mining company Teck Resources. TWITTER

People in power thrown challenge

CAREERS

Champion women for senior roles: Campaign

Tara Deschamps
For Metro | Toronto

Women are over-mentored, but under-sponsored.
Megan Anderson

Megan Anderson and Laura McGee were thousands of feet in the air when they dreamed of a way to elevate the careers of women.

By the time the plane landed, the Toronto friends and McKinsey & Co. employees devised Go Sponsor Her, a growing movement encouraging executives, leaders and business directors to advocate for women to be promoted to senior roles.

The premise is simple — high-ranking professionals commit to championing a woman and publicly declare their support for her on social media with the #GoSponsorHer hashtag, and challenge others in positions of power to follow suit.

Backed by McKinsey, Deloitte, and Catalyst, the project is meant to build a pipeline of highly-qualified females to combat the under-representation of women in boardrooms and leadership roles. Metro's recent Women on Boards series revealed women only account for 13 per cent of board members of businesses listed on the TSX, hold only four per cent of CEO jobs at S&P 500 companies and are two to three times less likely than a man to be in a senior management position.

"We wanted to do something to move the needle quickly because women are over-mentored, but undersponsored," Anderson said, adding men are 46 per cent more likely to be championed.

Mentors give advice, but sponsors — her project's focus — take it a step further by "sticking their necks out" for a protege. "They'll talk about the person to their network, make connections for them and help them find opportunities," she explained.

The dozens now committed to doing so include activist Craig Kielburger, Dragons' Den star Michelle Romanow, media maven Kirstine Stewart, banking head Jennifer Tory and Anderson's long-time sponsor, McKinsey & Co.'s Bruce Simpson.

Toronto DIGEST

INDIGENOUS ISSUES

Walk gets cash boost

Plans to host this year's Walk for Reconciliation in Toronto are getting a financial boost.

Council's Aboriginal Affairs Committee recommended last week to offer a $500,000 grant for the event as part of an effort to respond to recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The event celebrates relationships between Indigenous people and other communities in the country. GILBERT NGABO/METRO

ANIMAL RESCUE

Support for cat rescue

Toronto Cat Rescue has received an outpouring of public support for their biggest feline rescue operation yet. The non-profit is trying to find homes for hundreds of cats from an overcrowded rural shelter."

Since Metro first reported on the operation the organization has received around $19,000 in donations and found homes for 20 of the cats, said executive director Heather Brown.

MAY WARREN/METRO

SCHOOL BOARD

Trustee under fire

The York Region school board cannot get past all of its challenges until trustee Nancy Elgie steps down, warns Education Minister Mitzie Hunter.

In November, after a public meeting, Elgie was overheard referring to a black parent as a n-----. The board subsequently hired an independent investigator and Elgie later admitted to, and apologized for, uttering the slur.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NEW natural ingredient produces 34% more hair in 8 months!

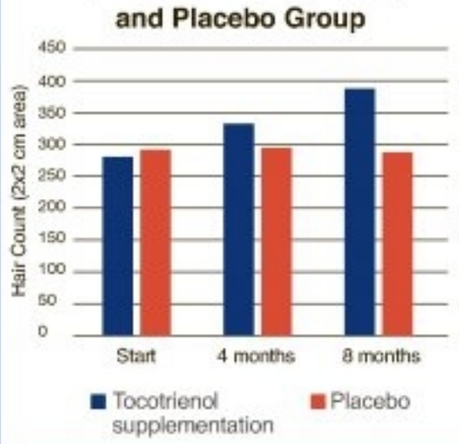
t is known that supplements can increase hair health and volume to some degree, but to find a supplement that can increase hair growth strongly is rare. Still, this is what scientist are finding when studying palm oil extracts.

A recent study was done at the University of Malaysia with 38 people suffering from hair loss (alopecia)*. They were told to take a palm oil extract containing a special ratio of "super-antioxidants" called tocotrienols, known to lower oxidation in the scalp and thus allow for better – and new - hair growth. The results were surprisingly good!

STUDY RESULT:

Researchers studied an area of the scalp equal to 2x2 cm and counted the hairs at the beginning of the study, at 4 months and at 8 months. At the end of the study, the participants on the tocotrienol supplement had gained 34.5% more hair or an increase in average hair count from 285 to 383 hairs. Most of the group showed increases of 10-25%, but 40% of the group had more than 50% increase in hair growth. And only one person did not have any results.

Hair Count in Study Group and Placebo Group



In Canada, this complex of tocotrienols is now available in the Health Canada licensed product called Hair Gro™ from New Nordic. Hair Gro is available now at participating pharmacies and health food stores. For more information or to purchase directly, please visit our website or call: 1-877-696-6734.

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"Tropical Life Sciences Research 2010 "Effects of Tocotrienol Supplementation on Hair Growth in Human Volunteers" Beoy, Woei et Hay, University Sains Malaysia. To make sure this product is right for you, always read the label and follow the instructions.

'Great harm was done'

SIXTIES SCOOP

Judge sides with survivors in groundbreaking decision

After trying for eight years to have a class-action lawsuit brought by Ontario survivors of the '60s Scoop thrown out, the federal government was dealt a blow Tuesday in a stinging ruling by a Toronto judge who found in the survivors' favour.

The government had a "common law duty of care" to take reasonable steps to prevent on-reserve children from losing their Indigenous identity after they were removed and placed in non-Indigenous care between 1965 and 1984, concluded Superior Court Justice Edward Belobaba.

"Canada breached this common law duty of care," the judge said.

It's believed there are at least 16,000 survivors of the '60s Scoop in Ontario, who have spoken of psychological harm as a result of the loss of their cultural identity, which has affected them throughout adulthood.

Beaverhouse First Nation Chief Marcia Brown Martel is the lead plaintiff in an Ontario class-action suit. A judge ruled Tuesday in favour of 16,000 Indigenous Ontarians who were removed from their communities in the Sixties Scoop. THE CANADIAN PRESS

"The Sixties Scoop happened and great harm was done," Belobaba wrote in his 20-page ruling.

"The uncontroverted evidence of the plaintiff's experts is that the loss of their aboriginal identity left the children fundamentally disoriented, with a reduced ability to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. The loss of aboriginal identity resulted in psychiatric disorders, substance abuse, unemployment, violence and numerous suicides."

The victory — the first for a '60s Scoop lawsuit in Canada — after years of legal wrangling was hailed by the plaintiffs and Indigenous rights groups, who acknowledged this is not the end of the case.

The next phase is to assess the damages the government owes the plaintiffs, who were asking for $1.3 billion. Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett, who said the government will not appeal Belobaba's ruling, said Tuesday she wants to get all parties to the table as quickly as possible.

The lead plaintiff, Marcia Brown Martel, 53, a member of the Temagami First Nation near Kirkland Lake, Ont., was adopted by a non-aboriginal couple in 1972 at age nine.

She later discovered the Canadian government had declared her original identity dead.

"I feel like a great weight has been lifted from my heart," Brown Martel said. "Our pain was acknowledged."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE AND THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDUCATION

Liberals write off $178M in loans

The federal government for the second year in a row is writing off millions in student loans it will never collect, this time to the tune of $178.4 million.

The money represents 32,554 loans that federal officials believe they will never be able to collect, either because a debtor may have filed for bankruptcy, the debt itself has passed a six-year legal limit on collection, or the debtor can't be found.

Last year, the government wrote off 33,967 loans totalling $176 million.

Federal officials have increased their efforts in recent years to collect outstanding student loans after watching write-offs hit $312 million in 2012 and $295 million in 2015.

The previous Conservative government ordered officials to ramp up collection efforts in order to bring the write-offs under control.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IMMIGRATION

Goodale to discuss border 'issues'

Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale says he will soon talk face-to-face with his U.S. counterpart about the difficulties some Canadians are experiencing at the border.

Goodale said Tuesday he will have a chance in coming weeks — no date has been set — to discuss any border "issues or tensions" with Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly.

"We're working on the scheduling of that," Goodale said after a cabinet meeting. "The atmosphere in terms of the preliminary relationship seems to be very, very good."

Ralph Goodale

The Nexus trusted-traveller cards of about 200 Canadian permanent residents were suddenly cancelled after U.S. President Donald Trump issued an executive order banning visitors from seven largely Muslim countries.

There have been several recent reports about minorities being turned away at the U.S. border. At the same time, Manitoba is grappling with an influx of would-be refugees crossing at remote border points in bitterly cold weather. Goodale was briefed on the refugee issue Tuesday by RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson and Canada Border Services Agency president John Ossowski.

"They're redeploying resources to make sure that they've got the right people at the right place to be able to cope with these matters," Goodale said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Divided on democracy

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

Younger Canadians want a more open, more diverse political system than their older counterparts, according to the government's survey on electoral reform.

The mydemocracy.ca survey Ottawa unveiled last year didn't ask the question directly, but it was meant to gauge Canadians' support for a change to the voting system.

The government ultimately announced that no voting reform would be forthcoming.

The online questionnaire surveyed more than 380,000 Canadians on topics around the structure of Parliament and voting mechanisms.

While on some issues there was agreement between old and young, on others there was a wide generation gap.

While 53 per cent of Canadians aged between 18 and 29 favoured putting special measures to ensure parliament reflected Canada's diversity, only 38 per cent of people over 65 endorsed that idea.

Online voting, which Elections Canada has rejected for now, had the support of 57 per cent of 18-29 year olds, but only 44 per cent of 44-year-olds.

Jane Hilderman, executive director of Samara Canada, which works to reconnect Canadians with politics, said today's youth are bucking trends.

"They are behaving differently and in the 2015 election they did turn out differently than people did before," she said.

She said young people don't all think alike, but many want more from politics than what they're getting — namely choice.

She said policy-makers would be wise to consider that.

White House drama

POLITICS

President Trump has lots of problems, but Canada isn't one

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has assured his U.S. counterpart over the phone that there might be 10,000 problems that land on his White House desk — and Canada won't be among them.

How true that promise rang Tuesday. Trudeau had barely left Washington and the cheer of a drama-free day was swiftly overshadowed by an incoming storm of palace intrigue, back-stabbing, leaks, international incidents and a spying scandal that rocked Donald Trump's White House.

Trump's national security adviser Michael Flynn wandered in to watch the Trudeau-Trump news conference. It made for an awkward scene, as, just a few feet away, a U.S. journalist was chatting on-air about whether Flynn might be fired.

He was, hours later.

Less than 24 hours later, at another news conference, Trump's spokesperson was asked why Flynn was fired. Sean Spicer said it was because the former military man and campaign surrogate had misled the president about his phone calls.

National Security Adviser Michael Flynn has left his position in the Trump administration. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"The evolving and eroding level of trust as a result of this situation and a series of other questionable instances is what led the president to ask for Gen. Flynn's resignation," Spicer said.

Several media outlets were tipped off about the existence of transcripts of Flynn-Russia phone calls, intercepted by U.S. intelligence. It's just one of several high-level calls leaked to journalists recently.

There are demands for a full investigation into the administration's interactions with the Russian government — Democrats want one and the idea is gaining support among Republicans.

Trump, meanwhile, tweeted: "The real story here is why are there so many illegal leaks coming out of Washington? Will these leaks be happening as I deal on (North) Korea?"

Speaking of North Korea, the nuclear-armed nation produced two surprises this week. The first was its latest missile test — as Trump spent the weekend with the leader of North Korean nemesis Japan.

Then the half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was assassinated at an airport in Malaysia. As he died, he told medical workers he'd been attacked with a chemical spray, an official there said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LATEST NEWS

President Donald Trump was told in late January that his top national security aide had misled his vice-president, three weeks before Trump ousted adviser Michael Flynn amid a swirling public controversy over Flynn's contacts with a Russian official, said press secretary Sean Spicer on Tuesday.

Joe Trudeau visits — wait, what?

Donald Trump's press secretary, Sean Spicer, had a lot on his mind at the start of his daily briefing on Tuesday. Which may or may not explain what he called Canada's prime minister.

Joe.

Spicer used much of his opening statement to explain the forced resignation of Trump's national security adviser, Michael Flynn. Before he let reporters begin grilling him on the Flynn fiasco, he found a bit of time to mention Trump's Monday meeting with Justin Trudeau.

"Yesterday the president set — had an incredibly productive set of meetings and discussions with Prime Minster Joe Trudeau of Canada," he said, "focusing on our shared commitment to close co-operation in addressing both the challenges facing our two countries and the problems throughout the world. Our countries share a profound economic interest, with more than $2 billion in two-way trade flowing across our border every day."

It was not immediately clear if Spicer is familiar with the Molson ads featuring a Joe from Canada.

Spicer has faced mockery for his slips of the tongue, deliberate deceit and attacks on the reporters asking him questions.

On Tuesday Press Secretary Sean Spicer mentioned Trump's meeting with PM Justin Trudeau, whom Spicer called "Joe." GETTY IMAGES

Trump's chaos-plagued young administration has been struggling with basic tasks like identifying foreign leaders correctly. It has called U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May "Teresa," called the president of Colombia the president of "Columbia," and called the prime minister of Australia the president of Australia. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Elections may soon see more women of colour

EQUALITY

Fears over Trump are a motivating factor for many

As Samia Assed watched U.S. election returns come in with her children and another Muslim family, she panicked when it became clear that Donald Trump would win the presidency. The Palestinian-American woman wondered if they would have to register as Muslims, as Trump said during his campaign. Would she be barred from wearing her hijab in public?

Assed has turned her fears into action, joining what advocacy groups say are hundreds, possibly thousands of women of colour, who are exploring a run for public office. Across the United States, women are gathering signatures, attending workshops and signing up for fundraising and public-speaking classes as they set their eyes on school board seats, city councils, state offices and even Congress.

Samia Assed, a Palestinian-American, has turned her fears over Donald Trump's election into action.
RUSSELL CONTRERAS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Just how many women of colour will actually seek office is anyone's guess. Advocacy groups say it's too early to determine how many women will formally file papers, but they believe the number could triple. Some are deciding on what position to seek, while others are waiting for 2018 or 2019, advocates said.

VoteRunLead director Erin Vilardi said the group has seen a jump in the number of women interested in politics. The New York-based group typically draws 50 to 100 participants for webinars like From Protester to Politician.

But since November, the webinars have attracted more than 1,000 participants each time, Vilardi said. And about half of those signing up are women of colour.

"From our inboxes to our social media sites, we can't keep up with the fire hose," Vilardi said.

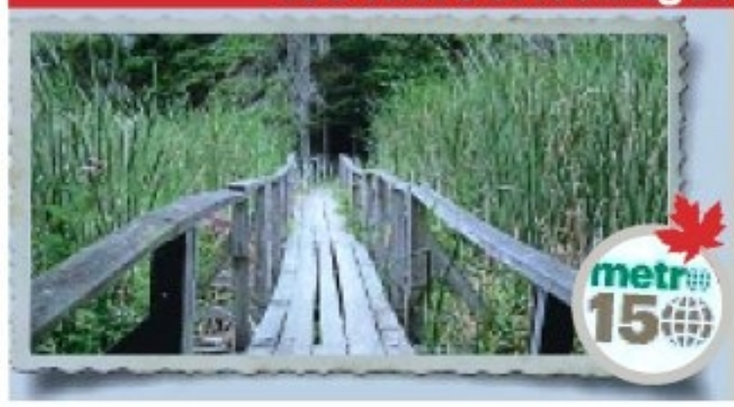
In interviews with The Associated Press, some say Trump's win and his past comments on minorities and women sparked them to jump into politics. Others, like Monic Behnken, 44, cite the divisiveness of the presidential campaign or Democrat Hillary Clinton's defeat among the motivating factors.

Behnken, a criminal justice professor at Iowa State University, is seeking a seat on the Ames School Board.

"Seeing how this ugliness was filtering into my children's lives was probably the thing that motivated me the most," said Behnken, who is black. "I knew I had to do something to step up to make the world as safe for them as I could."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

150 WAYS of looking at Canada



POSTCARD NO. 15

GRUNDY LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK

The Beaver Dams Trail at Grundy Lake Provincial Park in Ontario is special to me because I was just starting to be interested in photography and I really got to experiment. The bridge picture was my proudest moment and still hangs in my dining room. It inspired me to do more. **Rebecca Karton**

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Wednesday, February 15, 2017

JESSICA ALLEN ON SOLIDARITY SISTERS

It's good to see conflict in feminism as it strives to include women across race and class. It means it's breathing, alive, and thriving.

On Sunday night, the eve of Galentine's Day no less, Adele told the world her Album of the Year Grammy should've gone to Beyoncé. And then, as if the universe was steered by the forces of sisterhood, the top of the trophy popped off, leaving a piece for each.

It was a shining moment of female friendship. A gesture of solidarity between powerful female voices, Bey's mouthed words to Adele echoing into the era: "I love you."

It was amazing to see undercurrents that sometimes splinter the movement — questions of race and power, who gets included or excluded and why — seemed to melt away.

It was almost enough to make you forget that the institution representing power in the music industry gave the biggest award of the year to a white woman, again.

That beautiful moment also reminded us that though female friendship is a powerful short-hand for solidarity, this stuff is complicated. Really complicated.

Meanwhile, over at HBO, the season premiere of Girls illuminated the seedier side of female relationships.

Hannah Horvath, played by show creator Lena Dunham, lands a column in the New York Times by mining the pain generated by her best friend hooking up with her ex.

This stuff is complicated. Really complicated.

The byline leads to a meeting with the editor of the SlagMag: "We're basically hiring you for your look, your vibe and your shape. Just your whole thing," the editor, played by Chelsea Peretti, says. It is something Hannah's always wanted to hear.

The forces of female friendship split Adele's Grammy, so a piece could rightfully go to Beyoncé, Jessica Allen writes. GETTY IMAGES

She's sent on an assignment sold as "stupid and rad." She must infiltrate a surf school in the Hamptons attended by rich women, whom she will pick apart in print.

In a single scene, a woman slaps a scarlet "A" on her one-time friend while the editor reduces Hannah to a caricature and pays her to do the same to other women.

The second episode, which airs this Sunday, delves further into the complicated, sometimes volatile interactions between women. Shoshanna, played by Zosia Mamet, has landed a new marketing job and is eager to network at an event hosted by WEMUN, Women Entrepreneurs Meet Up Now.

It's a chance for "amazing business women" to connect and talk about how to "synergize and mobilize."

Jessa, lost professionally and personally, tags along, functioning as the audience's Greek choir, asking Shosh why she wants to surround herself with this brand of woman, especially with membership fees at $2,000.

"Whether it's how to rock a romper at a work event or who you should be voting for, a WEMUN woman is the person to ask," a co-founder tells the group. "Is it open for trans women? The answer is we don't know, OK?"

Not just a great punch line, that "we don't know" was refreshing. Having the courage to say "I don't know" when dealing with something as complex as the power of half the planet is hell of a lot better than the mission statement demanded by some after the Women's March on Washington.

Remember when Gloria Steinem and Madeleine Albright, two towering figures of feminism, told progressive young women who to vote for? Now that a man who has a public record of demeaning women is president of the U.S., this infighting over what some might consider minutiae of feminism, seems quaint.

The thorny problem here: feminism, which at its most basic means equal opportunities for women in every sphere, doesn't mean that 3.5 billion people have to agree with each other. Equality and liberty mean very different things, which is why the French made sure to include both words in their national motto.

It's good to see conflicts in the feminist movement as it strives to include women across race and class. It means it's breathing, alive, and thriving.

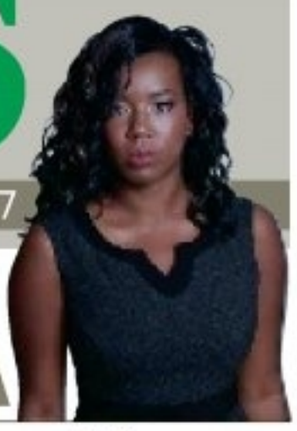
We are not going to agree on everything, which is why Girls, a show about four millennial white women living in Brooklyn is so good: it revels in the mess.

Though Hannah does express a sentiment that transcends all boundaries: "I definitely feel more like a dumpling than a woman," she said.

Welcome to the club.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

VICKY MOCHAMA



Don't bother asking the liar-in-chief for any answers on Flynn

With the late-night resignation of Donald Trump's national security adviser Michael Flynn, the question has to be asked: What did the president know and when did he know it?

The more important question for me, however, is: Are we all talking about the same president? And are we asking about what he knows? If they hadn't made him move house, I would doubt he was aware that he was actually president.

I'm not entirely certain he has read the American Constitution.

He can't have, because he would have thought long and hard (for him) before surrounding himself with opportunistic billionaires and Mike Pence while the 25th amendment still exists.

(Section 4 of the 25th Amendment allows a majority of the cabinet to declare the president unfit to serve. It also elevates the vice-president to the presidency.)

The one thing we can be certain of is that whenever Donald Trump was told A Thing is an entirely different moment from when he actually knew That Thing. Which is, in turn, a different event from when he will ultimately, and needlessly, lie about It.

After all, this is the administration that has introduced the world to "alternative facts."

In this way, Trump is an inspiring leader. You can see his on-again-off-again relationship with the truth all over his administration. At Tuesday morning's briefing, White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer called our prime minister "Joe Trudeau." Maybe it was an accident, but the visit happened 24 hours ago. How hard is it to not screw up your guest's name?

Comically-innocent errors have been few and far between. Everything else is far more dangerous.

The promise to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act looks poised to just be a repeal. "Draining the swamp" has included putting billionaires from Goldman Sachs and ExxonMobil in the cabinet.

From the wild manipulations of adviser Kellyanne Conway to the mendacity of Spicer to the alleged threats from Omarosa Manigault, the staff are clearly taking their cues from the top.

Aside from the actual access he has to nuclear weapons, the daily danger that Trump possesses is that of a clueless white man speaking loudly on things he knows nothing about. This is an archetype who, when questioned, will lie and obfuscate.

As reported last summer in the Washington Post, in a 2007 deposition lawyers caught Trump in a lie 30 times. Try lying 30 times at your job today. They'll either make you CEO or show you the door. (Don't tell them I sent you; I take no responsibility.)

In this alternate reality we're living, the question should be asked: What did Trump voters know and when did they know it?

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metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

ABC has named a black woman as its Bachelorette for the first time in the show's history. Rachel Lindsay, a 31-year-old attorney from Texas, will lead the 13th season of The Bachelor spinoff.

Heartwarming winter soul food

Now's the time when a lot of Canadians wish they could bid winter farewell forever. But with these three heartwarming recipes, not only will you enjoy a toasty afternoon in the kitchen, you'll be able to savour all the comforting results throughout the week... **RICARDO LARRIVÉE** TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Spice-rubbed Pork Chops

Makes 4 servings.

You wouldn't think that a recipe that requires just 10 minutes of prep could yield such remarkable results, but that's the thing with pork chops: They're fast and delicious. This recipe pairs them with a brown sugar rub filled with the five-alarm fragrance of chili powder, black pepper, cumin and garlic, which caramelizes into the most delectable crust. This recipe will wind up on your regular roster.

Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp coarse salt
- 1 tbsp brown sugar
- 1 tbsp chili powder
- 1/2 tsp ground black pepper
- 1/2 tsp ground cumin seeds
- 1/4 tsp garlic powder
- 4 bone-in pork chops, 1 inch (2.5 cm) thick, trimmed

Directions:

1. In a bowl, combine all the ingredients, except for the pork chops. Place the meat on a plate. Coat and rub with the spice mixture. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours or overnight.

2. Preheat the grill, setting the burners to medium-high. Oil the grate.

3. Grill the pork chops for 4 to 5 minutes on each side for medium-rare doneness. Let rest for 5 minutes. If desired, garnish with chopped celery leaves.

Beef and Leek Confit Open-Faced Sandwich

Makes 4 servings.

The linchpin component here is the leek confit, which sounds fancy but is easy as pie to make: It's simply seasoned leeks baked for 40 minutes in cream and butter. Served over crusty country bread and topped with hot mustard, cheese, arugula and thinly sliced flank steak, it makes for a simple but memorable meal.

Ingredients:

For leeks:

- 2 leeks, cut into pieces 1 1/4 inches (3 cm) thick
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) 35 per cent heavy cream
- 1/4 cup (55 g) cold butter, cubed
- Salt and pepper, to taste

For beef:

- 1 flank steak or beef strip loin, about 1 lb (450 g)
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) olive oil

For sandwiches:

- 4 slices country bread
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) Dijon mustard
- 8 oz (200 g) firm cheese (Marechal, Comté, Gruyère), cut into 4 slices
- 1 cup (25 g) baby arugula
- Pepper, to taste

Directions:

1. To make the leek confit, with the rack in middle position preheat the oven to 400F/200C. In a baking dish, spread the leeks in an even layer and cover with the cream and butter. Season with salt and pepper. Cover and bake for 40 minutes. Uncover and continue baking for about 5 minutes. Set aside.

2. Meanwhile, to prepare the beef, heat oil in skillet over medium heat. Add meat and brown on both sides until desired doneness. Set aside on a plate and let rest for about 15 minutes. Thinly slice the meat.

3. To make the sandwiches, move oven rack to highest position and preheat broiler. Place bread slices on a baking sheet. Spread with mustard and cover with cheese. Broil for about 5 minutes or until cheese is melted and bread begins to toast. Garnish with sliced beef, leeks, and arugula. Generously season.

Cheddar and Broccoli Soup

Makes 4 servings.

Broccoli is a hard sell for some kids, but not in this recipe, which includes so many other favourite flavours: cheddar cheese, cream, chicken broth, even ham! The result is a hearty soup that's creamy, salty and smoky, and the embodiment of comfort food. Make a double batch and you'll have enough to warm your soul every day this week.

Ingredients:

- 1 shallot, finely chopped
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- 3 tbsp (40 g) butter
- 4 thin slices ham, finely chopped
- 1/4 cup (40 g) unbleached all-purpose flour
- 1 pinch ground nutmeg
- 3 1/2 cups (875 mL) chicken broth
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) 35 per cent heavy cream or 15 per cent cooking cream
- 1 tsp (5 mL) whole-grain mustard
- 2 1/2 cups (225 g) grated mild orange cheddar cheese
- 4 cups (1 L) cooked broccoli florets

Directions:

1. In a saucepan over medium heat, soften shallot and garlic in butter. Add ham and cook for 2 minutes. Sprinkle with flour and nutmeg and cook for 1 minute, stirring constantly. Add broth, cream and mustard. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring with a whisk.

2. Simmer gently for about 5 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in cheese until it is melted completely. Add broccoli and heat through, without boiling. Lightly season with salt and pepper. Transfer to serving bowls.

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ROSE REISMAN THE SAVVY EATER

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Soup is the ultimate comfort food during the frigid months of winter. A low-fat, veggie-based soup is a simple way to have a healthy part of your meal, but serving it in large bread bowl will sink you nutritionally. The bread bowl is equivalent to 6 slices of bread. This gives you an unnecessary addition of over 6 times the calories and almost double the sodium. Don't eat your bowl! Get a small whole grain roll on the side if you're craving carbs.

LIQUID ASSETS PETER ROCKWELL

Any port in a storm? Not quite, get the real thing

For drinkers of my vintage our first taste of port came out of a big bottle worth about what we now consider bus fare. It wasn't made in Portugal, far from it, and Portuguese winemakers spent years seething over the use and abuse of the name of their signature liquid output by a multitude of foreign countries.

In 2013 Canadian vineyards agreed to stop using the term port to describe their fortified wines; choosing instead to go with the less geographically specific term tawny. (Just to add a bit of confusion, tawny is also used in Portugal to describe a variety of aged wines).

While my generation still struggles with the changeover, millennial-aged consumers only see port as Portuguese. Falling in love with all the sublime personalities the real stuff offers.

If you're looking to discover (or re-discover) Portuguese port, Warre's Otima 10-Year-Old Tawny (500ml, $21.95-$26.99) is a super-smooth aged version with round caramel and soft, nutty flavours that drinks well chilled or at room temperature.

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.

FOOD BANKS GROW THEIR OWN WAY

Shortages spurring action

In a bid to make up for a shortfall of high-quality nutritious food, some Canadian food banks are growing their own — and even farming fish.

The Mississauga Food Bank recently launched AquaGrow Farms, where tilapia is being raised in tanks and lettuce is raised through hydroponics, or without soil. Executive director Christopher Hatch said the Ontario food bank is the first in Canada to be producing its own fish.

"It's not a complete solution, but it's certainly in the right direction and it shows the community we're thinking creatively about how to solve this problem," said Hatch.

Clients of a food bank depot in Surrey, B.C., part of metro Vancouver, will also be the recipients of leafy salad greens, thanks to hydroponic growing walls donated by Living Garden Foods.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Riverdale struggles to find its early flow

THE SHOW: Riverdale, Season 1, Episode 2 (Netflix)
THE MOMENT: The pep rally

A student has died, but the pep rally goes on, led by the dead student's twin, Cheryl Blossom (Madelaine Petsch), queen beyotch. Archie (K.J. Apa), a hunky football star, spies his estranged emo pal Jughead (Cole Sprouse) by the bleachers. "I didn't mean all that crap I said to you," Archie says. "I'm sorry."

"It's cool," Jughead shrugs. Then he grins. "We're not gonna hug in front of this whole town. So why don't we just do that bro thing where we nod like douches and mutually suppress our emotions."

Josie (Ashleigh Murray) and the Pussycats, a trio who wear cat ears, begin singing, "Baby want your sugar I'm ready to get served," and then segue into a hip hop version of Sugar, Sugar. The marching band and cheerleaders — including Betty and Veronica (Lili Reinhardt and Camila Mendes) join in.

I think this moody, self-referential take on the classic comic book series is in on the joke — that it's both homage to and send-up of self-serious, pre-Golden Age TV dramas.

I called it Twin Peaks 90210 before I even knew that a star of the former, Madchen Amick, plays Betty's mom, and a star of the latter, Luke Perry, plays Archie's dad.

But despite all the knowing updates — Betty's bestie is gay, Moose is a jock-in-the-closet, and people say things like "Can't we in this post-James-Franco era liberate ourselves from the tired jock/artist dichotomy?" — I still think this is an adult's idea of teenagers. No kid today cares about the in-joke references, and nothing can make Sugar, Sugar cool.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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Painting Black artists 'into future'

Visual artist and graphic designer Danilo McCallum has a five-year-old baby in his arms. Over the last few years this baby has grown tentacles. "In 3017 it's got a lot of tentacles," he said.

What?

The baby in question is Black Future Month, a yearly art exhibition that McCallum co-founded with friend and fellow visual artist Quentin Vercetty.

"Black Future Month is an annual afrofuturism exhibition and movement exhibiting works of Black artists and looking at the possibilities for our future," he said. "The overarching theme of our exhibition is looking 1,000 years into the future."

This year's exhibit will feature 20 artists, both national and international, exploring the distant future. Through the exhibition McCallum and Vercetty hope that visitors can begin to envision a future that centers Black people and where racism isn't one of the conflicts that exists.

"For many of us afrofuturism is a liberation movement," McCallum said. "It's important to recognize that we're painting ourselves into the future. In doing that today we're changing the psychological mindset of ourselves."

For its fifth anniversary, BFM will break the month-long bonds of Black History Month and host exhibitions, panel discussions and other events all year long. Expansion plans also include bringing BFM to Colombia for a graffiti festival, a summer exhibition and an expansion into merchandise.

SEPTEMBRE ANDERSON

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The comic book series Z'Isle follows the story of a fallen society overrun by zombies where bikes are the weapon of choice.
CONTRIBUTED

Exploring a darker path

Z'ISLE

Racial diversity in zombie apocalypse comic series

Septembre Anderson

Montreal is celebrating its 375th anniversary this year and while they commemorate their long history, Lateef Martin is looking to the future — a post-apocalyptic, zombie-laden future that is. The illustrator and writer is behind Z'Isle, a world where zombies have descended, society has fallen apart and bicycles are the weapons of choice.

"What's great about the zombie apocalypse genre is that it's a great form for reflecting the times," said Martin. "For Z'Isle we just loved the genre and wanted to do our own take."

And what form does this world take? Well, all of them. Z'Isle is a transmedia story told through a comic book series, a video game, a soundtrack and live-action shorts.

"There are certain things you can't do in comics and that you shouldn't do," said Martin who is also the founder and creator of Miscellaneum Studios that produces Z'Isle. "It's also a way to get people from other spheres to get interested in what you're creating. It's also a lot of fun to be able to tell your story in different ways."

Z'Isle is a socially responsible story that makes sure to include diverse representation including racial diversity. And just like any good zombie story, there's a message and method to the madness.

"For me zombies represent bias in Z'Isle. In the sense that we're all infected with bias," he said. "If you don't engage in critical thought and think about this and how this bias influences how you think and how you act you'll be stuck in this one way of thinking."

"This is the underlying theme under that and it also allows us to explore what happens to a culture or society when all the rules are taken away," he said. "Who do you become or who have you always been but now you're not restricted and you can be who you truly are. And that might lead to darker paths or brighter paths."

But back to the bikes. In post-apocalyptic Montreal, just like in present day Montreal, bikes are everywhere. In Z'Isle though these modes of transportation take on new forms.

AFROFUTURISM

Marganilized groups bring narratives to life

Sherece Taffe can't pinpoint when she first fell in love with reading but she does know that the printed word has always held a special place in her heart.

"I've always been into books," said the business analyst and web developer for A Different Booklist.

Sci-fi, fantasy and graphic novels, however, hold a special place in her heart, which makes a gig at A Different Booklist, the Black-owned independent Toronto bookstore, the perfect job. For Taffe, afrofuturism brings the marginalized in from the margins and places them firmly in the centre of futuristic narratives. SEPTEMBRE ANDERSON

metro WHEELS
Your essential daily news

Up for auction: 2005 Ford GT once owned by racing champion Jenson Button

Corolla safety features add value

REVIEW

XSE: Safer and sleeker but still not very fun to drive

Jodi Lai
AutoGuide.com

The Toyota Corolla is simultaneously one of the most loved and most hated cars on the market. Millions of people buy Corollas, yet car snobs will go on and on about how boring they are.

Here's the truth: For what it is — a budget compact sedan — the Toyota Corolla is perfectly fine, especially because it has just been refreshed for the 2017 model year.

There are a lot of misconceptions we have to clear up about the 2017 Toyota Corolla.

People will tell you it's garbage because it feels like a cheap car. But while the Corolla can't match a Lexus or even a Honda Civic in terms of swankiness, but it's not as bad as you've heard.

The 2017 Corolla gets a new look that gives the sedan some personality. It doesn't seem as cheap, both inside and out. LED headlights and a backup camera are now standard, but more importantly, so is Toyota's safety technology package.

Where most other cars in this class make you pay extra, the Corolla includes automatic emergency braking with pedestrian detection, lane departure alert with steering assist, adaptive cruise control and automatic highbeams as standard equipment. That's a huge deal, considering this car starts at $18,500 in the U.S. and $16,390 in Canada.

One oddity is that blind spot monitoring is an option on the Corolla, something drivers may find more useful day to day.

Another misconception is that the Corolla is awful to drive, which isn't 100 per cent true either. In the city, the Corolla is actually pretty great. It's easy and fuss-free, it has great sightlines and off-the-line acceleration isn't terrible. The turning radius is nice and tight so parking and completing U-turns is easy.

It's when you take the Corolla on the highway where it becomes a little depressing. The steering gets extra vague and twitchy, but even worse is that the engine is borderline unresponsive when trying to make a pass. The Corolla is powered by a 1.8-liter four-cylinder engine with 140 horsepower and 126 pound-feet of torque — great in the city, but just not very good at high speeds.

As tested, this Corolla comes with heated seats, a push-button start, keyless entry, auto-dimming rearview mirror, an eight-way power driver's seat, leather-like seating, a sunroof and navigation as options.

In terms of value, the Corolla undercuts the Civic on price while still offering more important standard features at base level. Even fully loaded, the pricing isn't out of whack, but topline models start to step on the toes of much better, more complete cars that might offer a better driving experience or feel more luxurious.

THE CHECKLIST | 2017 TOYOTA COROLLA XSE

THE BASICS

Engine: 1.8L four-cylinder
Output: 140 hp, 126 pound-feet of torque
Transmission: CVT
Fuel Economy (L/100 km): 8.3 city, 6.7 hwy, 7.5 combined (CVT)
Price: Starts at $16,390/$26,928 as tested

LOVE IT

- Generous standard features and safety equipment
- Affordable
- Roomy

LEAVE IT

- Lackluster driving dynamics on highway

Big reveals at the Chicago Auto Show

GETAWAY

Weekend with the new Atlas

Volkswagen of America premiered a new trim package for the Atlas, the Weekend Edition. Inspired by the popular Vanagon and Eurovan Weekender packages from the '80s — which featured a pop-top and closet, but no stove or fridge — the Atlas Weekend Edition is designed to be perfect for a weekend excursion. The trunk is lined with protective plastic and the roof is topped with a pop-up cargo box. SEBASTIEN BELL/AUTOGUIDE.COM

HANDOUT

OUTDOOR

RAV4 revamped for adventure

Toyota is set to offer a fresh version of its popular RAV4 compact crossover.

The new Adventure trim was just revealed at the Chicago Auto Show. Available in model year 2018, this vehicle is dressed for the great outdoors, featuring larger fender flares, an elevated ride height and a standard trailer-prep package.

You can look for the RAV4 Adventure at Toyota dealerships in September.

CRAIG COLE/AUTOGUIDE.COM

GETTY IMAGES

WHEELS ROUNDUP
News driving the auto industry brought to you by AutoGuide.com

PHOTO COURTESY THE CHICAGO AUTO SHOW

LIMITED EDITION

Turning 80 no challenge

Mopar is celebrating its 80th birthday with a limited-edition Dodge Challenger, revealed at the 2017 Chicago Auto Show.

Mopar, Fiat Chrysler Automobile's (FCA) official aftermarket parts arm, puts together limited-edition models every year, but for 2017, the car doubles as a birthday celebration.

Mopar will build just 160 of these cars, 80 of which will be available in Pitch Black/Contusion Blue while the other 80 will come in Pitch Black/Billet Silver.

Each car comes with a serialized Mopar '17 edition badge under the hood, while each customers also gets a Mopar '17 owner's kit which includes things like a welcome letter, birth certificate for the car, a Mopar '17 rendering, Mopar valve stem caps and more.

STEPHEN ELMER/AUTOGUIDE.COM

VOLKSWAGEN

Design history set in LEGO

What's more fun than LEGO? Nothing. Nothing is more fun than LEGO. But cars are pretty great too, so Volkswagen decided to combine the two and make LEGO brick diorama featuring the Atlas and the microbus.

The LEGO VWs will make its public debut at the Chicago Auto Show, which started on the 11th and runs until Feb. 20.

According to the VW, the display is made up of more than 20,000 bricks and is a visual metaphor for its design evolution.

SEBASTIEN BELL/AUTOGUIDE.COM

HANDOUT

BACKGROUND

Getting your engines revving since 1901

The Chicago Auto Show is the largest and longest running auto show in America.

The 109th edition, open to the public from Feb. 11 to 20th, features approximately 1,000 vehicles from about 40 exhibitors.

Hosted in McCormick Place, the show floor space occupies over a million square feet and includes indoor five test tracks. Visitors can also take certain models on outdoor test drives.

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8 CARS IN DESPERATE NEED OF A REDESIGN

The market changes quickly, so it's understandable that automakers can't always keep up. As a result, there are plenty of outdated models still being sold. Here are AutoGuide.com's picks of vehicles we believe desperately need to be redesigned or even discontinued. JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM

1 Buick Regal

The current Buick Regal has been in production since the 2011 model year and compared to some of the other cars in Buick's lineup like the LaCrosse, it's quite outdated. Luckily, there is a replacement coming soon and judging from the spy photos, it will be quite stylish. In fact, there are some design elements from the popular Avista Concept on the new Opel Insignia (which is a European Regal). Hopefully it remains mostly unchanged when it arrives in the U.S. badged as a Regal.

2 Dodge Journey

If there was ever a car that looks like it only belongs on the lots of rental car companies, it's the Dodge Journey. The midsize crossover features some of the most outdated design elements in existence. It got a refresh in 2011 but as you can tell, there's nothing exciting about its design or powertrain. Rumors about the next-gen Journey is that production will move to Italy since it will share its platform with the Alfa Romeo Giulia.

6 Smart Fortwo

Goodness, how did the Smart Fortwo get a second-generation model? Oh, that's right. Because in other parts of the world, compact city cars are actually successful. But in the U.S., well, to give you an idea of just how poorly the Smart Fortwo sells, a mere 6,211 units were purchased in 2016. Ford sold as many F-Series pickups in less than three days last year.

3 Mercedes-Benz G-Class

We get it, you shouldn't touch something as iconic as the Mercedes-Benz G-Class. But the G-Wagen has, for the most part, kept the same styling since the late 1970s. The current model went into production in 1990. Interestingly, it will receive its first full redesign and spy photographers have already caught prototypes testing. Don't expect it to look significantly different, as Mercedes will preserve elements that make the G-Class so recognizable worldwide.

7 BMW 4 Series Gran Coupé

When BMW decided to revamp its nomenclature it made coupe models even-numbered and sedans odd. For example, the 3 Series would have four doors and the 4 Series would have two. But then BMW added a million different variants, like the 4 Series Gran Coupé. The 4 Series badge means it should have two doors, but it actually has four, which basically makes it no different from the 3 Series GT. Not only is it really confusing but it has no place in the lineup.

4 Ford Flex

The funky Ford Flex is one of the few models in the American automaker's lineup that hasn't been recently updated and it shows. The trend of boxy SUVs is quickly fading and giving way to sleek and stylish crossovers. The current-generation Flex has been on the market since model year 2009 and desperately needs a makeover if Ford intends to keep it in its lineup. Rumor has it that the Flex is getting cut by 2020 with the arrival of the next-generation Edge.

5 Mitsubishi i-MiEV

The Mitsubishi i-MiEV was barely an acceptable offering when the electric vehicle market was in its infancy, but by today's standards, it's basically insulting. Sure, it's America's most affordable electric car, but when was the last time you even saw one on the road? It returns 62 miles of all-electric travel while offering a paltry 66 horsepower and 145 pound-feet of torque. Considering how far electric vehicles have come since the i-MiEV was first introduced in 2009, it's little surprise it hardly sells in the U.S. Last year, Mitsubishi sold 94 units. Yes, under 100.

8 Toyota Sequoia

Toyota has been on a streak revamping all its models including the new Toyota Camry. But one model the Japanese automaker has paid no attention to is its Sequoia SUV, which has been in production since late 2007. Other than minor changes throughout the years like infotainment updates and replacement engines, the Sequoia has remained unchanged. And its sales reflect just how outdated the model has become, dropping to less than 15,000 units sold in the U.S. last year.

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Sami Haj-Assaad takes a guided tour through town in a vintage Mini and discovers the wacky personality of a car that makes even the most hurried pedestrian stop and smile. ALL IMAGES ISTOCK

London streets from the passenger seat

SIGHTSEEING

Best way for car enthusiasts to experience the Big Smoke

Sami Haj-Assaad
AutoGuide.com

It's a scary moment as we signal to enter an alleyway that's barely wider than the car we're in.

More than a few things can go wrong: we could scrape the car trying to squeeze between buildings, pancake a cellphone-focused pedestrian or get rear-ended by another car because of the halted flow of traffic. For whatever reason, pedestrians stop crowding the entrance of the alley, waving at us as we drive by. Not a single horn honked, no middle fingers, just smiles.

"What gives?" I ask the driver. He responds, "We're in a Mini!"

This is proof that a vintage Mini and London streets may be the perfect combo, even in 2017.

When we arrived in the U.K. to drive the new MINI Countryman, we had about half a day to get acquainted with the city — and comfortable with driving on the other side of the road. So we got some help from Small Car Big City, a company that offers sightseeing tours in its fleet of vintage Minis.

Our guide greeted us at the hotel and led us to a nearby alleyway where he stashed two Minis named Poppy and Lulu. With its bright red paint and retractable hardtop, I gravitated to Poppy, a 1998 Rover Mini Cooper Sports Pack with a stick shift. Lulu was a teal Mini with gorgeous stripes. The Minis each managed to fit three people (in addition to the driver). I hopped into the back seat where I found no leg room and barely any head room.

We hit the road and I mean literally. I typically have a high tolerance for rough-riding vehicles but this was just about unbearable. Weighing about 1,500 pounds, nearly half the weight of the average new car, this oldie didn't feel light on the road as it crashed and banged over every bump and crack in the pavement.

My whining stopped as we started on our tour, heading off to London Bridge and taking a stop by the Golden Hinde. This boat circumnavigated the globe in its heyday, something that may have been exciting, but likely not very comfortable — an interesting parallel between the ship and the Mini we're in.

It's getting a bit easier to crawl in and out of the car, but it's no more hospitable in the tiny Cooper. We take another spin; the sun is going down and it's getting cold, but we put our hats and gloves on; there's no way we'll consider closing the roof, not when I can get perfect shot without needing to stop. It helps that I can take photos right out of the roof, because the car is so small and low that if I was taking photos out the windows, half the image would be a curb or another car.

Minis, like the vintage model shown above, are a symbol of swinging London.

We stop at a street market. These little spots are wonderful and as quirky as our Mini. One shop sells only cheese, while another is devoted solely to tea. One even has custom-brewed beers.

When the crowd finally dissipates around our car (this seems to happen whenever we stop), we fire it up again and I notice that the car is quite loud. There's no way that this Cooper had a stock exhaust setup. I ask my guide and he says the cars have had a few modifications.

It's that expression of personality that MINI owners live for. This sentiment comes to mind at our next stop: Leake Street, also known as the graffiti or Banksy tunnel. The street is constantly being worked on by artists and car traffic is prohibited, although no one seemed to mind us parking our Mini there.

It's a special privilege that the old Mini has earned. Home-grown in the U.K., even these older Rover-built Minis were manufactured in Birmingham, while modern ones are built in Oxford.

When I spent the following days driving a 2017 MINI Countryman, there was the unmistakable charm of that classic Mini I still felt while driving the new one. Although the modern MINI is much larger, more comfortable and refined, it still displays the same personality we saw in the vintage versions.

Seeing the old compact do its thing through the big British town is an experience that's perfect, much like driving a Jeep through Moab or a Mustang down Route 66.

It's an automotive bucket-list item provided by the kind folks at Little Car Big City.

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Winter driving tips from racing legend

ROAD WISE

Doug Herbert: Teaching road safety since the loss of his sons

Jason Siu
AutoGuide.com

The winter season brings with it some of the most dangerous driving conditions. Top Fuel drag racing legend Doug Herbert lost his two young sons in a tragic car crash in 2008 and has since transformed his grief into something positive by creating the non-profit, teen-focused defensive driving program Be Responsible and Keep Everyone Safe (B.R.A.K.E.S.).

Herbert and his team of instructors travel across America offering teens and their parents free, hands-on driving exercises like panic braking, drop wheel (off-road) recovery, skid control and distracted driving awareness.

Herbert has released a top 10 list of winter driving tips to help you and your loved ones stay safe.

Rainwater can cause slicks

The first rainfall of the year can create oil slicks on roadways, which reduces traction. In other low-lying areas, small puddles of water can cause tires to hydroplane. In most situations, accidents can be avoided by simply slowing down in wet weather.

Be aware of windy weather

Along with rain, wind can bring hazards for drivers. High winds can blow snow, dirt or sand across the roadway, reducing visibility and traction. In addition, loose objects can blow across the path of travel, surprising drivers and causing panic steering and braking inputs. In some cases, it's better to park and wait until the winds subside.

Know how your car behaves in low-traction conditions

Front-wheel-drive vehicles can offer better traction and car control in corners, while rear-wheel-drive vehicles may not respond to steering inputs or experience loss of traction, causing the vehicle to spin. But even with all-wheel drive, speeds must be reduced when traction is limited.

Avoid distracted driving

Herbert, shown in this file photo, founded B.R.A.K.E.S. to teach defensive driving. GETTY IMAGES

If you must use your phone for navigation, it's best to use a phone mount or pair your phone to your vehicle's infotainment system. To also help reduce distracted driving in winter, you should set your defroster to run automatically and turn on your headlights before you leave, even if it's daylight out.

Pack an emergency bag

A small emergency bag with two or more blankets, jumper cables, extra clothing, extra phone charger or battery, boots, a flashlight and extra batteries, ice scraper, umbrella, water, high-calorie non-perishable snacks and a bright piece of cloth. Winter conditions are unpredictable and these things could come in handy.

Check your battery

Always check your battery before heading out on a long trip. Most automotive batteries last about three years but extreme cold requires more energy to start your car. At zero degrees Fahrenheit, a car's battery loses about 60 per cent of its strength, and at 32 F, it loses 35 per cent.

Check the tread on your tires

No matter the conditions, you should check that you have enough tread on your tires before hitting the road. Make sure you're using the correct type (winter vs. all season) as it could make a major difference. All-season tires can harden in low temperatures, reducing traction.

Slow down in icy areas

Sometimes it's the things you can't see that are the most dangerous. Bridges and overpasses are often the first place for ice patches to develop. Expect traction to be diminished when approaching those areas and slow down.

Get familiar with your vehicle's braking system

Even in today's most advanced vehicles, you should be familiar with the braking system in your particular car. If you have ABS, be sure you know how to activate it and that you know what it feels like when ABS is activated. It's recommended to test your ABS system in an empty, dry parking lot before you have to experience using it in an emergency. If ABS does activate, stay on the brakes, look and steer the car in the direction you want to go.

Never use cruise control in slippery conditions

Even though it's designed to make long drives more comfortable, it is never a good idea to use cruise control on slick roads. That's because the system does not have a feel for loose road conditions and could add more power at the wrong time, resulting in a loss of control.

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Style over speed when the roads are snowy

SAFTEY

Conquor ice and snow at performance boot camp

Jodi Lai
AutoGuide.com

I've never been a winter person. I've lived in Canada my whole life and never woken up to a frigid, dark and dreary day feeling like I could conquer the world.

Porsche seems to have a cure for people like me who love driving but hate winter: an immersive winter performance driving course. Porsche Camp4 takes a driver's worst winter enemies — snow and ice — and turns them into their best friends.

Held on the purpose-built Mécaglisse snow track in Quebec, participants are greeted by a stable of new Porsche sports cars and an encouraging group of hosts and skilled instructors. Porsche offers its winter performance school in Finland, China, Switzerland, Italy and Canada in three difficulty levels: Camp4 (precision), Camp4S (performance) and Camp4RS (masters).

I crashed into a snow bank, ate one or two pylons and embarrassed myself in front of colleagues, but it wasn't all in vain. I learned a thing or two in the process! Here are the three most important things drivers will learn at Porsche Camp4:

Winter tires are necessary

If you want to be a better and safer driver year-round, you absolutely need winter tires, even if you have all-wheel drive.

Winter tires give you more grip and more grip gives you more control. All-wheel drive might get you going faster, but it does absolutely nothing to help a car stop or slow down.

The Nokian Hakkapeliitta winter tires we used have 1.5-mm studs, while the tires used in the Camp4RS program have 3-mm studs, which are needed because drivers in the advanced course are let loose in the woods to rally the Porsches in the snow with very little room for error.

The tracks used in the beginner's Camp4 are wide and generous. The worst that can happen is a meeting with a soft snow bank (not to bruise our egos, one instructor called this a love tap).

Porsche hosts its winter performance courses in five countries, including Canada. HANDOUT

Porsches are great teachers

Part of the reason why Porsches are so interesting to drive is because they come in so many configurations, each having unique driving dynamics. We were able to drive mid-engine, rear-wheel-drive 718 Caymans as well as rear-engined 911s with both rear- and four-wheel drive.

Driving the cars back to back and also with Porsche Stability Management (PSM) traction control on and off really exaggerates how different cars require different driving techniques.

PSM takes the guess work out of hairy situations, reining in a car when the driver's enthusiasm outweighs their skill. With PSM traction control turned off, the car relies on the driver fully to know what to do get out an oversteer or understeer situation.

Style Over Speed

Driving in the snow isn't about going fast, it's about driving slow — with style. The Camp4 program had a slalom, skid pad and snow track, but blazing lap times weren't the goal. The goal was figuring out how to use each car's unique dynamics and the lack of traction to your advantage.

Instead of blasting through the slalom, we learned to pendulum around the cones using the car's rear-bias to help us.

We learned how drifting with a four-wheel-drive sports car is different than drifting with rear-wheel drive. And we also learned the Scandinavian Flick, a move rally drivers use to get around a corner more efficiently.

It's a lot of information to process, but the more you practice, the more you'll be able to feel what's going on and react correctly before your Porsche slides into a snow bank.

It may take practice, but under the watchful eye of talented instructors, drivers will leave Porsche Camp4 feeling like Ken Block.

Mercedes-Maybach G 650 Landaulet

Strictly limited, that's what acess to this on- and off-road luxury vehicle will be like when it hits the market in the fall. Only 99 units of the G 650 Laudaulet will be made available worldwide. The model is set to make its official debut at the Geneva Auto Show next month.

JASON SIU AUTOGUIDE.COM/WITH FILES FROM METRO

1 Mercedes-AMG V12 biturbo
Under the hood, the G 650 features the same powerplant found in the G 65, generating as much as 630 horsepower and 737 pound-feet of torque.

2 Exclusive exterior design
Exterior enhancements are borrowed from the G 500 4x4², like the carbon fibre wheel arches and more aggressive front and rear bumpers.

3 Open air luxury
What's really unique about the G 650, and what makes it a Landaulet variant, is its foldable top — which opens with the push of a button.

4 Third brake light
Also borrowed from the G 500 4x4² is the LED light strip above the spare tire, serving as a third brake light.

5 Sit back and relax
Multi-adjustable seats can be set to a fully reclined position and have programmed ENERGIZING massage functions.

BraunAbility and Chrysler team up

The Chrysler Pacifica minivan with AccessAbility technology is just the latest product to stem from Chrysler's 45 year-long partnership with BraunAbility. PHOTO COURTESY BRAUNABILITY

INNOVATION

Pacifica at CAS: Roomy and wheelchair-accessible

Jason Siu
AutoGuide.com

The Chrysler Pacifica is the most spacious wheelchair-accessible vehicle in the industry.

The American automaker teamed up with BraunAbility to design a wheelchair-accessible Pacifica that is making its debut at the 2017 Chicago Auto Show.

The minivan features patent-pending AccessAbility technology, including an aerospace-inspired sliding door extension and the industry's widest side-entry ramp.

Helping expand interior space are rear-axle space innovations and cantilevered seat bases. And to ensure Chrysler integrity and quality, BraunAbility sources its components through the same suppliers and crash-tests to the highest automotive standards.

The partnership between the two companies also include co-promotion support for the Give a Dog a Job Program benefiting Canine Companions for Independence.

The wheelchair-accessible Chrysler Pacifica is just the latest in a long-time partnership between the two brands, which began more than 45 years ago.

"Whether it's a veteran, a colleague, friend or a family member, there's a good chance we all know someone with a physical disability who needs help getting to the places and events that matter most to them," said Tim Kuniskis, head of Passenger Cars, Dodge, SRT, Chrysler and FIAT, FCA North America.

"The all-new Chrysler Pacifica is proving to be a lot of things to a lot of people, and now equipped with the BraunAbility technology, it is also the perfect tool to help our customers gain freedom to stay active in their everyday lives."

LABOUR

Upset Telsa workers are talking

Tesla employees don't seem to be too happy.

In the past, there have been reports of SpaceX staff complaining about working long hours and on weekends, with one anonymous engineer saying CEO Elon Musk's "version of reality is highly skewed."

Now, some workers have reached out to the United Auto Workers (UAW), claiming they work long hours for low pay under unsafe conditions. They added that Tesla has set aggressive production deadlines, causing California lawmakers to begin questioning Tesla for making its employees sign broad confidentiality agreements.

The American automaker said in a statement the complaints come from professional union organizers and pointed out that it is the largest manufacturing employer in California. One production worker at the company's Fremont plant, Jose Moran, shared in an online blog post that workers typically get paid $17 to $20 per hour, below the national average of $25.58 per hour for U.S. auto workers.

Moran says he's been with Tesla for four years and is proud of the work the company does, helping produce innovative electric vehicles. But he also said he averages 60 to 70 hours a week and that a few months ago, six of the eight members of his team were on medical leave from work-related injuries.

Headquartered in Palo Alto, Tesla has over 5,000 non-union workers at its factory in Fremont.

JASON SIU/AUTOGUIDE.COM

metro SPORTS

An Atlanta zoo has named a cockroach after Patriots quarterback Tom Brady after losing a Super Bowl bet with a Rhode Island zoo

Ujiri rolls dice on Ibaka

Bruce Arthur

Masai Ujiri is very good at waiting, which not everyone can do. It's like how some actors used to smoke in movies so they would have something to do with their hands when they weren't doing anything else. It's a skill, being convincing without doing too much at all.

Last week, with the Raptors in an extended skid, the idea running through the front office was, maybe we should just let this team get healthy, and prove itself. Let it ride, and reap whatever whirlwind at the end.

Then things changed. And on Tuesday the Raptors traded eternal what-if Terrence Ross and a low first-round pick to the Orlando Magic for power forward Serge Ibaka. It is the most consequential acquisition of Ujiri's career with the Raptors. It is a signal of intent: we are serious. Let's go.

"I also think with where we are as a team ... the coaches, where Kyle and DeMar are, our organization, fans, I think it's a good boost for us to have to see if we can bring us some good momentum," said Ujiri. "And see where it takes us."

For Ujiri, this is a departure. Aside from a failed Kyle Lowry trade to New York in 2013, he almost always deferred the big ideas to the future. The franchise's owners love him; he has a new contract. There was no organizational pressure, not really.

But Ujiri always keeps his options open. It wasn't Kevin Love's knee surgery in Cleveland that pushed this move. It wasn't Kyle Lowry, who entered Tuesday night tied for first in the NBA in minutes played per game, telling reporters after the Detroit collapse Sunday night that something had to change.

These Raptors had been playing with a one-legged DeMarre Carroll and a collection of young bigs that made Patrick Patterson indispensable, and Ujiri decided that the team deserved a shot at success. At last summer's draft, Oklahoma City had asked for the No. 9 pick, Norman Powell, Cory Joseph and Patterson for Ibaka. The Raptors passed. As the teams talked last week, Orlando's price looked similar to what Atlanta wanted for Paul Millsap last month: Patterson, Ross, a first-rounder and a young player. The Raptors weren't interested. They waited.

And with Ross and Powell to choose from, and an extra first-rounder from the Clippers, the path opened up. The Raptors can now roll out Lowry and DeRozan, a suddenly sharpshooting Carroll, Ibaka — shooting 38 per cent from three this year — and Jonas Valanciunas. When teams go small, Ibaka can play centre and switch pick-and-rolls, the way Bismack Biyombo did last season.

It is, within Ujiri's range of options, an acceptable risk. Yes, Ibaka's rebounding and especially his shot-blocking numbers have been declining for the past few years.

He is listed at 27 years old, but some have long speculated the Congolese big man is older than that.

This is the biggest risk Ujiri has taken, yes. Re-signing Lowry and Ibaka — who have the same agent, Andy Miller — would send the Raptors into the luxury tax territory, before Patterson's free agency factors in. And it's still unlikely to be enough to topple LeBron James this season.

But the pressure isn't on Ujiri: it's on his team. The Raptors intend to re-sign Ibaka and Lowry. But things can change.

"We're happy to have the rights to these players," said Ujiri, referring to the ability to exceed the salary cap for all three, "and we'll see what it brings us."

What Masai Ujiri did was remove the excuses. Now DeRozan has shooters, and it's up to him to share the ball. Now Casey has forwards, and it's up to him to meld them. Now Lowry has help, and it's up to him to make it work. Masai Ujiri could have waited, but decided to give this team a chance, with no guarantees. The rest, between now and the hazy future of the summer, is up to them.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Serge Ibaka is averaging 15.1 points, 6.8 rebounds and 1.6 blocks a game this season.
GETTY IMAGES

Toronto thank you for all the memories, thanks to the amazing fans. Couldn't of been drafted to a better city.
Terrence Ross (@TFlight31)

Michael Carter-Williams of the Bulls and Raptors forward DeMarre Carroll vie for the ball on Tuesday night in Chicago. Go to metronews.ca for the story.
JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Love out at least six weeks following knee surgery

Kevin Love won't be able to help the Cavaliers down the stretch this season.

The all-star forward will miss at least six weeks after undergoing arthroscopic surgery on his left knee Tuesday, a blow to the defending NBA champions as they try to lock up the top seed in the Eastern Conference and home-court advantage in the playoffs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former standout Argos receiver dies of cancer

Darrell K. Smith, a former receiver with the Toronto Argonauts, has died of cancer. He was 55.

The four-time CFL all-star remains the Argos' leader in consecutive games with a reception (96) and single-season touchdowns (20).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PSG blasts Barca in first leg of Champs League meeting

Two years after being humiliated by Barcelona in the Champions League, Paris Saint-Germain turned the tables on the five-time champions with a relentless display of skill, energy and determination.

Angel Di Maria scored two goals and top scorer Edinson Cavani grabbed his 34th of the season, with both players scoring on their birthdays as PSG battered Barcelona 4-0 in the first leg of their Round of 16 contest on Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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NHL

Matthews & Co. leave Islanders stranded

TUESDAY at ACC

7	1
LEAFS	ISLANDERS

Auston Matthews scored twice and Frederik Andersen won his 100th career game as the Toronto Maple Leafs emerged with a 7-1 win and two key points over the New York Islanders on Tuesday.

The Leafs entered the affair just one point up on the Islanders for the final wild card spot in the Eastern Conference, increasing that cushion to three (63 to 60) with the victory. Toronto had dropped six of its previous eight games. The Islanders had scooped up points in 10 of the first 14 games (8-2-2) under interim coach Doug Weight.

Matthews scored his 26th and 27th goals in the win while Andersen stopped 33-of-34 shots to capture the milestone victory.

Josh Leivo had a career-high three points (one goal and two assists) in the win, Nazem Kadri and William Nylander also chipped in with two points apiece (goal and assist). Toronto (26-18-11) hit a season-high for goals this season in the win, Tyler Bozak and Matt Hunwick both netting as well.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Therrien out, Julien in as Habs coach

The Montreal Canadiens fired head coach Michel Therrien on Tuesday and brought back former Boston Bruins bench boss Claude Julien to help rejuvenate their slumping team.

Julien became available when he was fired in his 10th season with the Bruins last week and Canadiens general manager Marc Bergevin was quick to snap him up. It is believed that a handful of other teams were also interested in the 56-year-old coach.

The Canadiens opened the season with a 13-1-1 mark but have been listless over the last two months and have a 2-6-1 record in their last nine games. There was fear of another collapse like last season, when the club went from first place to out of the playoffs after star goalie Carey Price was injured.

> **Today we hired the best available coach, and one of the league's best.**
> Habs GM Marc Bergevin

Speculation had been building that Therrien would be let go. He ended up being replaced by Julien for the second time in his career..

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Biagini in dreamland

MLB

Reliever can't believe he's a Jay, success may see him start

Joe Biagini walks back to the clubhouse after arriving in Dunedin, Fla., to begin spring training on Tuesday. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Six months after cracking the Blue Jays' major-league roster, Joe Biagini had a dream he was back in spring training as an unknown pitcher trying to prove himself. He still has trouble believing his 2016 success even now. "You spend 15, almost 20 years dreaming about this and you get in a habit of thinking about making it (the majors)," Biagini said Tuesday at the team's spring training clubhouse. "I kept thinking throughout the year, 'Oh it'll sink in, it'll sink in' and it wasn't really sinking in.

"In August I had a dream that I was trying to make the team. I woke up and I saw the interior of my apartment in Toronto and I had to take a second and realize, 'OK I did make the team.'"

The 26-year-old right-hander, picked up by the Blue Jays in the Rule 5 draft before last season, became one of manager John Gibbons's most steady options out of the bullpen.

He threw 67 2/3 innings, striking out 62 batters and allowing just three home runs all year, then followed that up with 7 1/3 scoreless post-season innings.

It's because of that success, however, that Biagini's role with the team has become uncertain. With Toronto in need of starting rotation depth, the organization has plans to stretch Biagini out over the course of the spring.

As Biagini described it, he's insurance "in case something crazy happens or doesn't go right or if there's some sort of spot that opens up."

"I'm going to be prepared as a possible option but there's no guarantee on that," he said.

"I think they're stretching me out early in camp, kind of just maintaining that and then preparing me to expect to go into the bullpen or also start if something happens where I need to do that." Biagini worked primarily as a starter throughout his minor-league career with the San Francisco Giants before joining Toronto. He was 29-30 with a 4.06 earned-run average through 89 games —all but three of them starts — over four seasons.

Stretching Biagini out could mean sending him to triple-A Buffalo to get reps in a rotation once the season begins. Biagini said he and Atkins had discussed that possibility.

"I'm OK with doing whatever they want me to do," Biagini said. "I don't know if (going to triple-A) is going to be an extremely likely option but it can be, there's just no way of knowing. They said there were some unique scenarios where that could possibly happen for a period. "In doing that, if it could help the team win I'm not going to make a big issue about it." Marco Estrada, who missed a handful of starts with a back injury last year, believes Biagini has what it takes to be an effective starter.

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Toronto's Marcus Stroman won his salary arbitration case Tuesday. Stroman got a boost from $525,900 to $3.4 million rather than Toronto's $3.1 million figure.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

"Oh God yeah, he can definitely start," Estrada said. "He's a huge asset to this team. What he did for us last year was incredible. To be a Rule 5 guy, nobody knew who he was, next thing you know he's one of our best relievers.

"He's definitely got the stuff to start. He can probably be a really good starter and the only way of knowing is to throw him out there and letting him do it." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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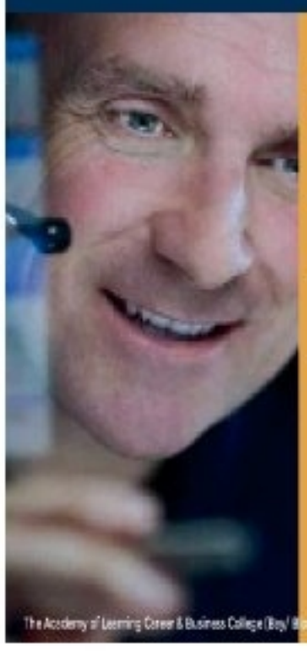

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Effortless Salmon Dinner Tray Bake

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Cooking your entire dinner on a tray is the ultimate in ease and deliciousness.

Ready in 35minutes
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 25 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 4 salmon filets
- 12 new potatoes
- 1 bundle of asparagus, washed and trimmed
- 20 cherry tomatoes
- 3 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 tsp fresh or dried thyme
- salt and pepper
- big squeeze of lemon juice

Directions
1. 1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
2. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment.
3. Thinly slice potatoes and scatter them across baking sheet. Season with 2 Tbsp of olive oil, pinch of salt, pepper and thyme. Place in oven for 15 minutes.
4. Remove tray from oven. Increase heat to 400 degrees. Lay salmon filets over the potatoes and add the asparagus and tomatoes. Return to oven for 10 to 15 minutes, or until salmon is cooked.
5. Remove from oven. Squeeze lemon juice over the whole pan and serve.

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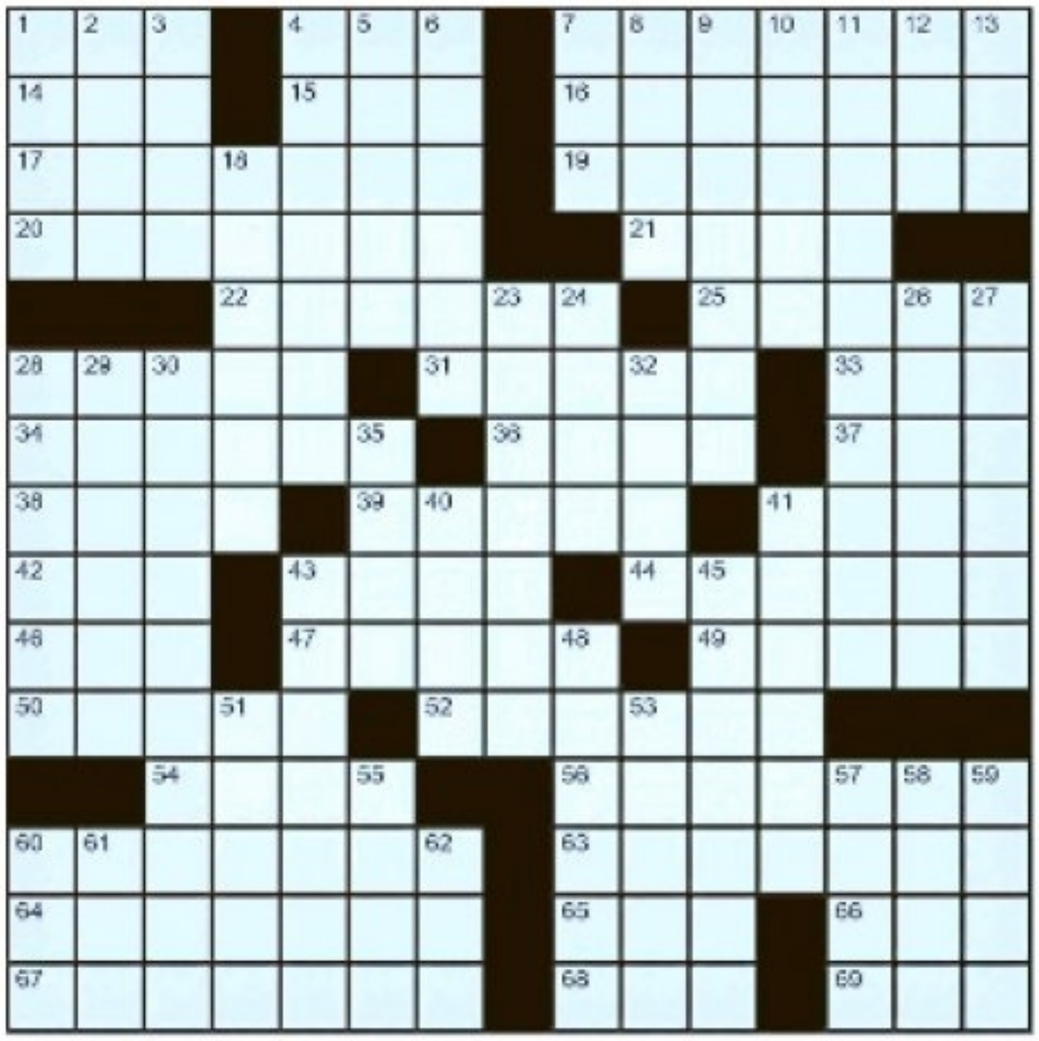
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. "_ and Away" (1992)
4. Mouth, informally
7. Type of landscape feature in Wapusk National Park, in Manitoba: 2 wds.
14. Green
15. "Bravo!"
16. Hors d'oeuvres tray's ritzy roes
17. Norah Jones' musician father, Ravi _
19. Fruit loaf of Germany
20. Gown and cap wearers
21. Perfected
22. Comedians
25. TV network VIPs
28. Dog: French
31. Buddhist who has attained Nirvana
33. Quebec turndown
34. Who Achilles killed in the Trojan War
36. Mr. Brynner's
37. Roxy Music's Brian
38. 'Mars'-meaning prefix
39. Actor Mr. Davis
41. Flintstones pet
42. Mythical bird
43. Chimney stuff
44. Beer keg 'faucet'
46. Ms. Carrere
47. "Wicked Game" singer Chris
49. Niners - Eighters = _
50. Theater curtain fabric
52. Furniture polish
54. Rock guitarist Steve's
56. Followers of The Way
60. Test tube room, fun-style: 2 wds.
63. Bauble
64. Barbary pirate
65. Ms. Ronstadt, for short
66. Singer Janis
67. Skiing venues
68. HS subject
69. Texter's polite abbr.

DOWN
1. Admit, _ up
2. Patient's pain
3. Horse coat
4. Title lady in a Barenaked Ladies song: 2 wds.
5. _ clock
6. "Prince of _: The Sands of Time" (2010)
7. "Sussudio" singer ...his initials-sharers
8. "I could _ _ horse I'm so hungry!"
9. Shorebirds with stilt-like legs
10. Bathroom cleaning brand
11. Ottawa-Gatineau's annual festival Winterlude as it is known in French: 3 mots
12. Iron _
13. American cable channel
18. Kind with: 2 wds.
23. Where to see the works of art at #30-Down: _ Garden, at Ottawa's Confederation Park
24. Feng _
26. Sarah _, "The Terminator" (1984) character
27. Snobs
28. Business meeting graphics
29. Courageous
30. They have created fantastically frigid sculptures at #11-Down: 2 wds.
32. Pub beverages
35. Aussie hoppers
40. Sudsy stuff
41. Have your meal at home: 2 wds.
43. Resembling
45. Travelling via a bouncy retro stick
48. Tea maker's need
51. Retort to "You are not!": 3 wds.
53. "Beyond the Sea" singer Bobby
55. "Who knows?" = "Qui _?", en francais
57. Bypass
58. Blue/green
59. RR depots
60. "Proud Mary" gr.
61. Tilling tool
62. Loni Anderson's famous ex ...his initials-sharers

✷ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

♈ **Aries** March 21 - April 20
This is an upbeat day to deal with members of the general public. It's also a good day to enjoy the company of partners and close friends.

♉ **Taurus** April 21 - May 21
Co-workers will be supportive of you today, because everyone is in a good mood. Work-related travel is likely.

♊ **Gemini** May 22 - June 21
This is a fun day for sports events, playful activities with children, the arts, social occasions and romance. Whatever you do will expand your day in a funfilled way.

♋ **Cancer** June 22 - July 23
The earlier part of this day is excellent for real-estate deals. This also is a wonderful time to entertain at home. Invite the gang over.

♌ **Leo** July 24 - Aug. 23
This is a positive day for those who are in sales, marketing, writing, teaching or acting, because you really are on your game! All Leos feel upbeat and positive.

♍ **Virgo** Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is a good day for business and commerce because you're not afraid to think big. A positive attitude with great expectations almost always will yield good results.

♎ **Libra** Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Today the Moon is in your sign, lined up with lucky Jupiter. This makes you generous and sympathetic to others. You feel optimistic and willing to help wherever you can.-

♏ **Scorpio** Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You might put your needs second today to help someone who is in dire straits. You will do this because it feels rewarding to do the right thing.

♐ **Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You'll enjoy hanging out with others today, especially in clubs, teams and classes. There's a strong sense of camaraderie with others, especially if you are working for a common goal.

♑ **Capricorn** Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Your enthusiasm for something will impress bosses, parents and VIPs today. They see your positive attitude as an asset, and they are willing to bet on you.

♒ **Aquarius** Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is a good day to make travel plans because you are enthusiastic about what is possible. You're not afraid to think big and reach for the impossible.

♓ **Pisces**
Feb. 20 - March 20
You can benefit from the wealth and resources of others today, which is why gifts, goodies and favours will come your way.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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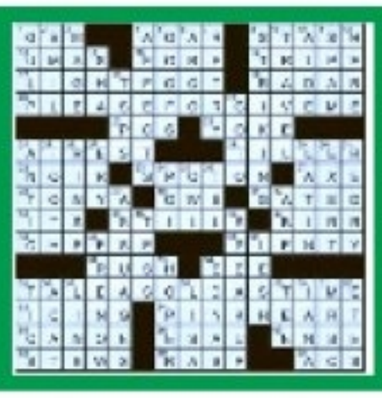

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